

July 15, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2015

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 beginning at 1:30pm, at the Cowlitz County Administration Building, General Meeting Room. The meeting agenda is attached.

Attendees were:

Bernie Altman, AARP and NAMI of SW Washington
JoAnne Baker, SHIBA
Ardell Burns, Services for the Blind
Judy Chamberlin, Community
Steve Chapman, Lower Columbia College Disability Support Services
Carolyn Fundingsland, Cowlitz County Elections Supervisor
Amy Hair, Cowlitz County Chief Deputy Auditor
Doug Hooper, Agency on Aging and Disabilities
Susan Isaacson, Catholic Community Services
Tim Krueger, Cowlitz Ombudsman, SWRSN
Tina McCully, Catholic Community Services/Volunteer Chore Services
Susan O'Connor, Wahkiakum County Elections
Marjorie Pitcher, Community
Haley Ruffe, Cowlitz County Elections
Susan Schwartz, Community
Sunnie Smith, Family Health Center/PCAP
Sharon Weinhold, Disability Outreach Coordinator
Carla-Jo Whitson, WA Traumatic Brain Injury Resource Manager
Linda Wilson, DAV, Longview
Paul Youmans, Pathways 2020, Cowlitz on the Move

Welcome and Introductions. Attendees were welcomed and, for the benefit of the presenter, introduced themselves and identified the organization or group they were representing.

Note from Audrey Jolley. Audrey Jolley, previous long time committee member who moved to Arizona last year, sent an email with an update on how she is doing. She is involved in a rehab program for the blind and is learning the latest technology, white cane travel, yoga and using a sewing machine. She is knitting her second baby blanket. In the summer, with the 113 plus degree temperatures, she and her sister spend time playing cards and meeting their friends at the air conditioned mall. She is happy to hear from committee members, hear of the interesting meeting presentations, misses the friendliness of the committee members and wishes all committee members well.

Presentation/Discussion

The topic of the meeting was the “*2015 Community Report Card, data and trends and how they impact us and our clients.*” When people are stressed or worried about their health or the resources they need to live, e.g., housing, food, insurance, their mind is not on voting. But voting is important! The presentation is the 5th in the series on Barriers to Voting and things that can be done to alleviate them.

The speaker Paul Youmans, from Pathways 2020, produces the Community Report Card every two years. The Report Card looks at data and trends that represent the health of Cowlitz County, and has become a focal point to discuss and recognize the challenges and opportunities for the community. The Report Card is used by organizations and many others to develop their programs and plans to help eliminate health inequities for individuals and the community.

The Community Report Card asks questions about what makes people healthy and through research finds that health comes from a network of issues known as the Social Determinants of Health. The social determinants frame a holistic spectrum of what impacts health: our physical environment, health behaviors, socio-economic factors, biological factors, and medical care. The 2015 Community Report Card looks at six determinants of health: economic vitality, education, health, access to healthy foods, social cohesion and housing. It looks at these issues by providing local data, exploring local responses to the six topics, and provides an opportunity for positive community impact through a series of calls to action. Success stories are highlighted; good things are happening in Cowlitz County. Charts and trends were presented on areas relevant to our committee and removing the barriers to voting.

A detailed 2015 Community Report Card is available online at www.pathways2020.org.

Elections Update, Primary. The 2015 Primary is on August 4, 2015. Ballots will be mailed on July 17. Accessible voting equipment, the eSlate, will be available on July 17 through Election Day. This is a partial election. Eligible voters in the City of Castle Rock and City of Kelso will receive a ballot. A voters’ pamphlet is available online at the elections website at www.vote.wa.gov/cowlitz.

The eSlate is mobile, and has been taken for a few scheduled hours to assisted living facilities, senior centers and other locations where there are a number of people who would like to vote on the eSlate. Please contact the Elections Department if you would like the eSlate brought to your facility.

Service Animal Licensing (Handout). Committee members had asked that this topic be addressed. Services animals do need licenses if they reside within the City limits. There is no charge for the license. When requesting a license, a rabies certificate and information on neutering must be provided. Service animals are allowed in stores, restaurants, on planes and many other places. Identification of the service animal with signs is not required. The proprietor can ask if the animal is a service animal because of a disability and what work it is trained to do. The owner does not have to answer any other questions related to the service animal. For more information, contact Officer Rust, Humane Society, (360) 577-0151.

Felons and Voting Rights (Handout). Committee members also asked for information on this topic.

If someone was convicted of a felony in a Washington State court, their right to vote is restored unless they are currently under the authority/supervision of the Department of Corrections (in prison or on community custody). If someone has questions on whether they are on DOC custody, they can call (800) 420-9674.

If someone was convicted of a felony in another state or in federal court, their right to vote is restored as long as they are not currently incarcerated for that felony.

Once the right to vote is restored, they must register to vote in order to receive a ballot. They can register online with MyVote, by mail or in person.

A person does not lose their right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or conviction in juvenile court.

Other Opportunities.

Bernie Altman. Turned 91 years old. Congratulations Bernie!

Tim Krueger. Effective July 1, Cowlitz County has combined with the Grays Harbor County RSN (and moved from Clark County). As a result, Tim will be working solely in Cowlitz County and will be more available for serving Cowlitz County residents.

Sunnie Smith. PCAP recently merged with the Family Health Center. The mission and location have not changed; only her email address has changed.

JoAnne Baker. Provided information about the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) Program and the many services the volunteer advisors provide to seniors. Sarah Clark, Advisor, is now responsible for a broader area and added counties.

Carlo-Jo Whitson. Hosts a support group every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of SW Washington Office on Pacific Avenue in Kelso.

Ardell Burns. The Services for the Blind is hosting a Technology Open House in October to make people aware of the assistive technologies available. She will provide additional information as the date is set. All are invited.

Steve Chapman.

-LCC partners with various universities to offer bachelor degree programs, and now partners with several universities to offer master degree programs.

-LCC is developing a program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in applied math/English, and upon completion will award a certificate. Look for more on that program in 2016.

-In October, for Disability Employment Awareness Month, LCC will be hosting an inspirational speaker who also is a star on Big House Little People. More information will follow as the details are finalized.

Linda Wilson. Provided information about the Cowlitz County Veterans Service Center, located at 1005 Fir Street. The Center provides many services for veterans including housing.

Doug Hooper.

-The Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities, along with The Elks, Lower Columbia CAP, and Grounds for Opportunity, is hosting a Senior Citizens Prom on Tuesday, September 29, at The Elks. A flyer will be provided.

-Handout on CAP Congregate Meal Sites was provided.

-Handout on Aging and Disabilities Community Services Programs was also provided.

Carolyn Fundingsland. The eSlate will be at the Cowlitz County Fair. Please stop by the Elections table.

Haley Ruffe. The Elections Department has been providing information via social media. Please check out the Elections website and facebook page at www.vote.wa.gov/cowlitz.

Marjorie Pitcher provided a flyer on Camp Lugal Lugal, that provides gardening adventures for children.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The topic will be assisted living with guest speaker Diane Craft.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Sharon Weinhold
Cowlitz County Elections

**Disability Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
County Administration Building
3rd Floor Meeting Room
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
1:30 – 2:30PM**

Welcome

Introductions A-Round the Room

Note from Audrey Jolley

**Presentation/Discussion – Paul Youmans
“2015 Community Report Card” – data and trends and
how they impact us and our clients**

Elections Update, Primary

Service Animal Licensing (Handout)

Felons and Voting Rights (Handout)

Other Opportunities

Next meeting, Tuesday, October 13, 2015